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04/25/2013 Minutes

Arlington Open Space Committee Minutes

Meeting Date: April 25, 2013

Approved May 23, 2013

Prepared by- Elizabeth Karpati

Present: Ann LeRoyer, Joey Glushko, Michele Hassler, Elizabeth Karpati, Leslie Mayer. Absent: Jane Auger, Teresa de Benedictis, Lisa Decker, Patsy Kraemer, David White

Minutes: The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as presented.

Future meetings: The switch to the fourth Thursday of the month was made for fiscal year 2012-13 only. For the rest of 2013 the last two dates would conflict with Thanksgiving and Christmas and the September meeting would come after Town Day. Suggested fall dates, depending on availability of rooms: August 22 (or 29), to include planning for Town Day; Sept. 26, Oct. 24; Nov. 14, Dec. 12 (to avoid conflicts with Con Com).

EcoFest was successful. Next year's topic is already under consideration; it may be recycling.

Mill Brook: Joey brought the results of the co-occurrence mapping. With all the characteristics that were mapped given the same point value, it does not show any areas deserving particular attention. Assigning higher point values to some of the characteristics could change this.

Master Plan: A big forum to gather more input is planned at the high school (no date yet), as well as some more localized outreach events. This process will present an opportunity to consider Mill Brook issues in a larger context. Last year's forum showed that open space is important to Arlingtonians.

Miscellaneous reports:

No news on ACHS field access, Schwamb Mill, Covenant School.

"Walking in Arlington" book: This would be a good "bragging item" for the next Open Space Plan if we could get it done, but the work has ground to a halt.

Cemetery: Michele reported that an area formerly thought unusable has turned out to be suitable for a columbarium where remains could be interred in biodegradable containers and the area reused after 12 years.

Park and Rec: Leslie reported that a tree stump at Waldo Park will be carved into public art. Banners for special events being posted on public property are being removed as one leads to another. The ZBA can approve special permits for signs in areas zoned as open space, but the process is time-consuming and involves a fee. Park & Rec is discussing whether to apply for a blanket special permit that would give it the authority to approve signs in individual cases.

